

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original) A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool comprising:

an elongated substantially non-conductive handle portion having a working tool extending substantially axially from one end of said handle portion;

said handle portion having a plurality of separate outwardly opening cavities formed into opposing side surfaces defined by generally H-shaped transverse cross section segments of said handle portion;

an elongated tubular sheath formed of material buoyant in water and extending substantially over said handle portion and enclosing said cavities in airtight fashion to form airtight cavities, said sheath cooperating with said airtight cavities to render said tool substantially buoyant in water.

Claim 2 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

said sleeve has a density of about 0.1 g/cc, the density of said handle portion being about 1.3 to 1.6 g/cm.

Claim 3 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

said handle portion is formed substantially of plastic or fiberglass.

Claim 4 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

said handle portion is formed of fiberglass reinforced NYLON material.

Claim 5 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

said sheath is formed of closed cell foam material.

Claim 6 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

said sheath is formed of ethylene vinyl acetate having a density of about 0.12 g/cc.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool comprising:

an elongated substantially non-conductive handle portion including a working tool embedded in and extending substantially axially from one end of said handle portion;

said handle portion having a plurality of separate outwardly opening cavities formed into opposing side surfaces defined by generally H-shaped transverse cross section segments of said handle portion;

an elongated tubular sheath formed of material buoyant in water and covering and sealingly enclosing each said cavity whereby the effective density of said hand tool is less than that of water.